

City of Concord Recreation and Parks Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes from January 17, 2008

Attendees:

Committee Members: City Councilor Candace White-Bouchard, City Councilor Keith Nyhan, Mary Miller, Janet Schofeild, John Mercier, Lauren Flieder, Amy Hull, Chiara Dolcino, Liz Odell

Staff Members: David Gill – Recreation, Christopher Jacques – General Services, Doug Woodward –Planning, Ed Rouberge – Engineering, Ken Lurvey- Community Development.

Guests: Phil Donovan and Warren Billings (Concord Crew) and Gary Ford – Concord American Little League.

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 by Candace.

Candace announced she was stepping down as Chair. Chiara made a motion to elected Mary Miller as Chair, seconded by Janet. Vote was unanimous in favor of motion.

Mary thanked everyone for their vote and started the meeting.

Candace welcomed her new Ward Rep Amy Hull.

Candace made a motion to approve the minutes from the Nov 15 meeting, seconded by Janet. No changes were made and the group unanimously approved the motion.

Concord Crews Request to build a Boat House

Mary welcomed Warren and Phil from Concord Crew. They highlighted their proposal to build a boat house for Concord Crew on a section of the Fire Department Training Area next to the Everett Arena. All RPAC members received, by mail a copy of their written request to the City Council. Concord Crew currently has 80 Concord kids in their program and they are in need of a place of their own. Warren mentioned they have been looking for several years to find a location in Concord on the river and they have narrowed their search to the Everett Arena/Fire Dept Training Area. Concord Crew currently has 12 boats, ranging from 40 – 60 feet in length. Currently Crew is not a varsity sport, however, kids can letter at Concord High School. They are currently requesting Building Phase 1 of the building (space for their current boats) and later on would be Phase 2 and 3 which would be an extension of the building that could handle

leased spaces for the public. Warren mentioned they are not sold on who owns the building as long as they can build it and run their program from that location.

Councilor Nyhan asked if they have approach the School District to see if they would do a land swap for a section of this land. Warren mentioned they had not.

Chiara asked how are they going to handle rental space for the public and how would this work regarding accessing their boats. Warren mentioned there are several ways to handle rental space, from individual locks to high tech security systems. He mentioned they have not fully looked into it as this is not their first priority.

Chiara also asked how would their docks work and have they received permission from the state to build them? She does not want to see the same thing happen to them that happened to the City and Concord 20/20 regarding the current docks at Everett Arena. Warren mentioned he thought their new docks will not need to be handicapped accessible and their dock would be posted "Concord Crew Use Only"

Janet asked how long their season is. Warren said it runs from ice out until November with the two main seasons: ice out to end of school and the middle August to beginning of November. During the summer they would like to offer lesson and clinic programs.

Chris asked if they had talked with the Everett Arena Advisory Committee as the Arena is an Enterprise Fund and relies on spring and fall shows as an income source. He also asked how their practices work. Phil said they have indeed talked with the Arena Board and will work with them as needed. Concord Crew practices six days a week, usually in the morning and usually attracts around 20 cars and if needed kids can run to practice from Concord High School. He also mentioned they are not looking at holding any meets at this time. Warren also mentioned they have a no cut policy and that all kids take part every week.

Councilor Nyhan asked who they have met with regarding this request. Ken Lurvey reviewed the process. They have meet with the Development Team which is made up of all departments within the City to flush out all concerns. As stated earlier, they have met with the Everett Arena Board and now RPAC. Ken mentioned the next step will involve a report to the City Council for their February meeting.

Councilor Nyhan asked Warren and Phil if they would help fund a master plan of the site? They mentioned they might be open to this however they would like to move forward as soon as possible and they know sometimes Master Plans take several months to create and approve.

Mary asked RPAC what they would like to recommend as concerns, if any:

1. Make sure the Fire Department's Training grounds are indeed being relocated.
2. Need to develop a mini master plan of the entire site, with all possible uses of the training area and the park including the possible location of the Boat House.
3. Make sure the operation of the boat house does not adversely affect the operation of the Everett Arena.

John asked once the plan for the site is created will RPAC need to approve. David indicated that RPAC would indeed need to approve the plan prior to any work starting on the site.

Councilor Nyhan made a motion to recommended approval of proposal, seconded by Councilor Bouchard to recommend that the City Council authorize the City Manager to negotiate a Land Lease Agreement with the Concord Crew Club to construct a boathouse in the vicinity of the Skateboard Park at the River Front Park subject to addressing the above concerns and once all have agreed on the specific location of the boathouse and the language of the Land Lease Agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

** Later during the meeting Janet asked if the Kiwanis Club had been brought up to speed regarding the boat house plans. Nobody knew the answer. She asked to have them included in the process. The group agreed and asked that it be indicated in the minutes. (the Kiwanis Club does all maintenance of the Kiwanis Riverfront Park)

Mary thanked Warren and Phil for their time.

Update of White, Kimball and Merrill Park Plans

Mary introduced Ed Rouberge - City Engineer. He reviewed the current status of the White Park, Kimball Park and Merrill Park projects.

White Park RFP should be ready to go out early March and mentioned the project team will meet another two times prior to end of February. The White Park project is currently funded to re-do the baseball field and create a new parking area. The Kimball and Merrill Park projects are not currently funded for completion. Ed is planning on the White Park construction starting this spring.

The group thanked Ed for his updates and looks forward to the upcoming White Park project.

Mary introduced Gary Ford who is representing the Concord American Little League. The White Park Plan calls for losing the Little League Field due to the new parking area. He is concerned there is not a funded plan to replace the field. In the mini master plan it does call for building a little league field at Garrison Park, however it is not budgeted for at this time. Gary asked if the City could free up another Little League Field for his league. David agreed to meet with Gary next week and research what can be done. David

mentioned he will be looking at all field requests this spring with the hope of improving the scheduling of all fields in Concord. Gary thought that would be a great idea and thanked the group for their time.

CIP Updates.

Ed highlighted the upcoming CIP projects FY 09 and beyond. There was not much discussion on projects for FY 09 and 2010.

Councilor Nyhan asked if it was possible to add a Gazebo at Rollins Park over the next couple of years. He was very impressed with the new one at the Golf Course. He also asked if RPAC would be willing to discuss a “sponsorships program” to help fund some CIP park Projects. The group agreed they would like to see what can be done. David will add this to one of the retreat topics (Retreat Date TBA)

Ed and Doug mentioned there will be a line added for the removal of the snow dump at Terrill Park. The City has land in the same area which will need to be cleared and a road built to the site.

Janet asked if there is any plan to improve the parking lot at Rolfe Park. Ed mentioned we still need to conduct a master field of the park and thought maybe Rolfe would be a good park to do something like White Park and remove the parking from the center area. Ed will add a master plan for Rolfe Park in the out years.

John brought up the condition of Green Street Community Center. He has been coaching in GSCC for over twenty years and this is the worst he has ever seen it and feels it is a disgrace. He would like to know what is going on with lack of maintenance, regular cleaning is non existent, carpet in entrance way, gym floor condition, inside needs to be painted, very dusty. He mentioned it is time to spend major money to improve it or build a new building - probably both. The group agreed it is a disgrace and there is a need to do something with all the centers. David mentioned the use has increased over the years and currently over 55,000 people come through GSCC doors each year. Councilor Nyhan mentioned he has also talked with the City Manger regarding GSCC. Keith agrees that the center is in bad condition. Ed mentioned there is no item in the CIP for GSCC, however it is under Public Properties CIP projects. David will ask Jeff Hoadley, Public Properties Superintendent, to join us at a future meeting to discuss Green Street Community Center.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm

Respectively submitted by

David Gill
Recreation Director